

## MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

29 March 2004

**PRESENT:** Cynthia A. Herman, Chairman  
Gary L. Daniels, Vice-Chairman  
Noreen A. O'Connell, Member  
Leonard D. Mannino, Member  
Katherine E.L. Chambers, Town Administrator  
Roberta Schelberg, Recording Secretary

**EXCUSED:** Lawrence D. Pickett, Member

**1.CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Herman called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**2.MINUTES:** No minutes discussed.

### **3. REPORTS OF BOARDS & SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

**-Board of Selectmen Goals.** – There was nothing new to report.

**-Conservation Commission.** There was nothing new to report.

**-DO-IT Committee.** There was nothing new to report.

**-Facilities Committee.** There was nothing new to report.

**-Heritage Commission.** There was nothing new to report.

**-Impact Fee Committee.** There was nothing new to report.

**-MACC Base.** There was nothing new to report.

**-MIDC.** There was nothing new to report.

**-NRPC Update.** There was nothing new to report.

**-PEG Access Channels Committee.** There was nothing new to report.

**-Personnel Committee.** There was nothing new to report.

**-Planning Board.** There was nothing new to report.

**- Recreation Commission.** There was nothing new to report.

**-Recycling Committee.** There was nothing new to report.

**- Regional Water District Committee.** There was nothing new to report.

**-School Board.** There was nothing new to report.

**-Solid Waste Committee.** There was nothing new to report.

**-Zoning Board.** There was nothing new to report.

There were no other reports for this evening.

#### 4. APPOINTMENTS:

**5:30pm – Non public hearing. Negotiations AFSCME Agreement.** Selectmen Daniels motioned to go into non-public session to discuss negotiations. Selectman Mannino seconded. All were in favor. Selectman Daniels motioned to approve the 2002 – 2005 contract sidebar agreement and cover letter. Selectman Mannino seconded. All were in favor. Selectman Daniels moved to exit non-public session. Selectman O'Connell seconded. All were in favor. The Board exited non-public session 5:45p.m.

**5:55pm – 48 Week Deduction Period.** Finance Director Rose Evans explained to the Board that beginning July 1 Employees will be contributing to health benefits. She would prefer to set up insurance premium tables, which are tied to the deduction code. The computerized payroll system doesn't work over 52 weeks only 48 weeks. Insurance premiums are monthly which is multiplied by twelve. Some months are four-week pay periods and some are five week. The first four pay periods there will be deductions but the fifth week there will be no deduction. It would be 48 deductions throughout the year. Katie Chambers suggested that we adopt this change to all Section 125 benefits of the withholding of the dependent care, health savings, account, medical, dental, insurance. Selectmen Daniels motioned to approve the 48-week deduction period. Selectmen O'Connell seconded and all were in favor. The goal is to bring it all online in July and Ruth will explain the schedule to the employees.

**6:15pm – Town Wide Revaluation Vision Appraisal Agreement:** Assessor Greg Heyn is looking for an okay from the Board to go ahead with a contract between the town and Vision Appraisal Technology, Inc. Greg has a meeting with town counsel Bill Drescher on Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am. He is looking for Attorney. Drescher's expertise to ensure that our request for proposal is complete. Selectmen Herman referenced the dates on page 13 pertaining to Support Maintenance of Software and Support Program and questioned why the three years of support started on 1/1/05 on page 6 but on page 13 there was a different date. What is the year of support? Greg says those dates are incorrect. They are two different things. Vision is responsible for our training and software until January 1, 2005. The 3-year maintenance contract will run from 2005 to 2007 @ \$3,000 a year. . Katie Chambers believes that the contract should be ironed out soon and hopes that the board would make any changes that they have tonight and that they would approve it with those changes pending Bill Drescher's review on Thursday. It would be available for the Chairman by the end of the week. Selectmen Daniels said the contract calls for \$217,000 dollars plus additional expenses if the count is not correct. Are, there any provisions for keeping it at \$225,900? Looks like it is open ended and he is concerned we might go over. Greg says we have more than enough properties in the next 18 months that Tom is going to finish up doing which would put us over the 50%. They have more than enough buffers. Katie Chambers says we didn't put in additional costs for litigation in the future and we'll have to put that in a future budget. Greg Heyn thinks there might be a way for users to access the system to look up information the Internet. Selectmen Daniels motioned to accept this agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign, with dates being corrected and awaiting town counsel to review it. Selectmen O'Connell seconded and all were in favor.

**6:30pm – MACC Base Discussions with Staff:** Selectmen Herman called other town selectmen that have not made a decision to withdraw. All of them are in meetings tonight and do not know what actions will be taken pertaining to withdrawal. There will be another meeting tomorrow night March 30<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm with the Selectmen of Lyndeborough, Wilton and Mont Vernon in Milford Selectmen's Room. They have been working with Nelson trying to rework the budget with remaining communities and feel they can reduce budget by \$100,000. Lyndeborough says they can go through KMA and County for \$15,000 combined. They weren't excited about the prospect because service would be a concern. But considering they are paying \$30,000 now, it would mean they would have to pay \$40,000 with Amherst leaving. Selectmen Herman asked for input from the staff. She says she had a conversation with Fire Chief Ray Dick from Wilton on adding an answering service with fees. Rich Pauley, the Chief of the Fire Department said we should focus on what brought us to this point - the quality of service with no improvement on the fire side of it. Chief Pauley was not sure that Milford could effect the changes that need to be made to improve that quality of service as part of a multi-member board. Selectmen Herman reasoned that changes haven't been addressed to date because of huge staffing changes. Focus on towns staying or going? Chief Pauley felt there was an attitude problem. Matter of customer service can't seem to get through the problems, which are continuous. As a department head he finds it very troubling that no action has been taken. Chief Fred Douglas of the Police Department said he had seen some improvements in the quality of service since he had opened up direct communication lines with director of MACC Base. The Board of Directors gave certain marching orders to director to have meeting with dialogue on some issues. When

he reported back to last meeting didn't see a lot of cooperation. Chalk it up to lack of cooperation. Everybody from Milford responded by other communities did not respond. One of the reps said we have to have cooperation and it hasn't been happening. One of the things to keep in mind is what MACC Base is called for and that's inter-operability between communities. If they go to KMA or county then they lost their inter-operability. We worry about Milford and Milford first. Have a responsibility to the community and to serve Milford 24 hours a day and if that means alone, so be it. Eric Schelberg, Director of the Ambulance Service agreed with Chief Pauley and Chief Douglas regarding the quality of service. That truly is the issue of what brought us here. We have been voicing our concern for some time. While the issue might seem small, the instances are repeated. It affects the quality of the response time. That has been the most frustrating aspect of dealing with the root cause. He believes that MACC Base as a whole as it is governed creates that issue. No fault of the governors themselves, but as a group it's been built in over years and as such it's difficult to change that inertia. In light of recent contract negotiations, Chief Douglas hit it on the head, cooperation does not seem to be there. The community has its own objections and goals. Have to look out for the best interest of Milford. Though MACC has financially served the town well, it has not served us in cooperation. The other issue he was concerned about is the contract in place now. With the voting rights as they are, especially of operational issues, Milford could be outvoted in every turn. It is detrimental to Milford even though we pay the higher percentage. Selectmen Daniels asked if the problems with quality of customer service are due to the equipment or will the lack of quality be there with new equipment? Chief Douglas says that one of the distractions of enhancing the quality is that they are more worried about their jobs than upgrading quality of customer service. Selectmen Daniels asked if the staff at MACC Base knew what their future was, would you expect an increase of customer service? Chief Douglas said he would hope so. Selectmen O'Connell said these are the same comments we got six months ago. She wondered if contracting new equipment and antennas and everything should be under control, and if training or advance training would help. I think Chief Pauley hit it on the head with the attitude thing. If this is what we are running up against do we go step by step to say this is how we handle a call? Chief Pauley says if we have to do that then we should be running the dispatch center. New equipment will help. But beyond that it's a very systemic training and attitude that is not being addressed. The system itself does not allow us to make the changes. The system (political) and the diverse make-up of the board of governors differs in terms of expectations, community size and operations. There is a different need, exposure, volume and activity levels for each town. Milford's level of service is different from what other communities expect.

Selectmen Herman was surprised that Contract re-negotiation hasn't been high on anyone's list. She went to a fire recently that led her to believe that inter-operability level was working and was glad to see it and now was very concerned to hear that the operational objective and the quality of service is what we need to address. Would mutual aid suffer if it's just us? (Milford) Where will it suffer? Chief Pauley says he doesn't think it will suffer. Out of a 1,000 calls last year Milford was called out for mutual aid or asked for mutual aid about twenty-four times. It means we will still have a good working mutual aid agreement with Amherst even if they leave MACC Base. The mutual aid has existed in this area longer than MACC Base. Doesn't see any negative fall out. We are operating out of two operating radio bands and that issue needs to be resolved. Selectmen Herman questioned why some of these issues haven't been addressed before. Katie Chambers asked how we can manage the cost without Amherst participating and with other towns leaving as well. Is it feasible operating as MACC BASE versus a town department? Selectmen Herman says if Milford was running it, the lion share of what the director (MACC BASE) does could be picked up by other departments such as payroll, insurance and rent. The majority of the cost of MACC BASE is the people. It needs two people, twenty-four hours, seven days a week. The only savings we recognize is in administration. Katie Chambers says it's seems less expensive to run as a Milford Department. The continuing service issues don't seem to be getting addressed since we first brought them up last summer; is the board thinking of giving it's notice by Wednesday? Selectmen Herman feels that it is not a black and white issue. The dilemma is with the way the contract is written. If the governing structure right now doesn't lend itself to our getting the services issues addressed, then it's not good for us. But having other communities involved reduces our cost and that's a good thing.

Selectmen O'Connell wants to know if there is a possibility of controlling Milford Communications with a contract with other towns so that we do have control over the training and attitude issues. We already own the equipment, the antennas and we have the building. Selectmen Herman says the smaller communities are in tough places. Lyndeborough has an ambulance combined with Wilton that is combined with Temple. And it's been a glitch because Temple is not involved with MACC BASE. They have bumps they have to get over, while we are sitting pretty well. While it may be possible to contract, Selectman O'Connell feels we would be going into business, and she is uncomfortable supporting that. Is that where we need to be? How do we determine the price? Do other communities have to take care of antennas in their town? We have the window of time between now and when Amherst physically leaves to come up with an entire operation plan and that is a lot. Selectmen Herman stated that there were numerous questions and not any that can be addressed in the next twenty-four hours. Gil Bliss, correspondent for the Union Leader told

the Board that he was a little confused about the comment made by Chief Pauley - that the present political system does not allow changes to be effective. There are four towns and Lyndeborough and Milford complained about services. Is it because of the directors do not want to do anything? The votes are there - why can change not happen? Selectmen Herman says the willingness is there for change but not sure what the blockades are. But it has been her question every time she talked to someone new. So what is it that trips us up to implement change? We are trying to address the major operation issues. Gil Bliss - Is the Chief saying that the board of governors is the one that does not want to implement change? Chief Pauley addresses Gil saying he has been fire chief for five years in April and there has been a declining level of quality of service. The MACC BASE board of governors is very diverse, with a lot of different thoughts and opinions to address the various needs. Almost wonder if it's too diverse. Gil Bliss then asked - Wouldn't the director clearly be the person to take the lead in that kind of thing? Chief Pauley answered he does not know. Selectmen Herman interjects that the director cannot tell other communities what to do.

Peggy Miller from the Milford Cabinet stated that there were some specific statements made and maybe you can't or won't clarify them. A couple related directly to lack of communication issues with the director but also veered into problems communicating with the board. Sounded like you said service was being held up due to a number of problems including some real communication issues both with the director and with the board. Selectmen Herman says she thinks communication in general is an issue. Chief Douglas - I think what I alluded to was when the board of directors and I asked the director to go over a series of questions with department heads (for each town) either as a group or individual and to get feedback. Milford and some towns responded but other towns have not. This clearly is lack of communication which the director brought to the attention of the Board of Governors at the last meeting. Selectmen Mannino said we should take care of Milford first and the quality of service, since there hasn't been any marked improvement. Chief Douglas says he has had an open line of dialog communication with the director that has been going well. One of the things he asked for approximately seven years ago was a new police frequency. He articulated that to the Board of Governors That was seven years ago. He even talked about liability issues. It was brought to his attention as recently as last week that a new frequency has been installed and is up and being testing. But unfortunately the console wouldn't accept it right now. There is a movement there and there is a concern for what he expressed seven years ago to the Board of Governors. David Brooks from the Nashua Telegraph: Can Milford vote to withdraw tomorrow night? Does it need to be a twenty-four hour posted meeting? Legally does it have to be posted? Plan to vote on this tonight? Board of Selectmen told him it is posted and that they have no idea if they are voting on this tonight. Jeff Marshall from the audience had a question. What vehicle do we have available to us if we make a decision to vote out of the municipal agreement to be ready at a particular point in time between now and next year's town meeting to invest in additional money? We won't be able to do this on our own for less money than it's costing us for MACC BASE. The Town of Amherst was able to do that because they are pulling money from different sources. They already have sixteen hours a day invested in people sitting in a chair. They have compensated for that large amount of cost associated with running a call center. We don't have that. So we're looking at a budget right now of \$258,000. Any choice we have outside of staying with MACC BASE is going to cost us more in 2005 than what is costing us right now. If we make a decision to stay or go out on our own, what do we have available to fund that decision? Selectmen Herman says that is part of the dilemma. This would seem to be an easy decision till you get to the money. And the problem is that the impact is real and seems to be substantial. If we leave things static right now we are legally obligated what the budget is for MACC BASE. It would be a \$100,000 dollars more. That is the reality of it. And it's a five-year agreement and we are going to take the hit one way or another. Jeff Marshall wants to know what the cost would be if Milford would go on its own? Selectmen Herman says Milford is the same. Smaller communities are negotiable. We're too big to be one seat but we're not enough for two seats. We have a huge volume. Jeff Marshall says he questions the numbers they came up with and that there are eight full-time dispatchers and the director and number shouldn't be that high if Milford goes alone. Selectmen Herman says you have to add in benefits, sick time and vacation and flex time. Jeff Marshall asked if we looking outside the box a little bit. What other possibilities exist? He doesn't see Milford running eight dispatchers and a director. Selectmen Herman said if it was Milford alone they could carve out about \$20,000. After that it becomes coverage. That's it. She has gone over all the numbers for several hours now. Jeff Marshall says the cost for next year will be \$258,000 and the cost the year after that will be \$312,000. This is without Amherst. Selectmen Herman says if based strictly on money it will serves us the best from the financial stand-point. And she will be lobbying other towns like crazy to join MACC BASE. It doesn't end there. Our responsibility goes further than that. If we are going to take on just Milford we can carve out some money but every one we bring in will offset our cost. Financially, as much as we can pinch our numbers it will still be cheaper to stay with MACC BASE. Jeff Marshall asks if Lyndeborough is interested in spending \$40,000 to stay with MACC BASE. Selectmen Herman said those are the conversations she has to have with the four towns. How much is the level of service worth to you versus the pains you'll go through to reduce their costs? Our prices are going up and the other communities are not stuck in the same position we are. Gil Bliss asked if Temple was interested in using our ambulance. Selectmen Herman says no more than what

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was discussed at the Board of Governors meeting. Rodney Richey (from audience) – If they board should vote to withdraw (from MACC BASE) is that an irreversible decision? Selectmen Herman answers yes. Town counsel told them that it is irreversible. Other communities have suggested doing that but you can't do it.

End of meeting with staff at 7:25 p.m. Selectmen Herman asked the board if they wanted to make a decision tonight regarding staying with MACC base. Selectmen Daniels said that quality was a higher priority than cost. Selectmen O'Connell would like to know what the other towns are doing and then all sit down and discuss the quality issue at length.

Selectmen Mannino asked if a decision of the other towns was expected by tomorrow and Selectmen Herman said they need to make a decision by the 31<sup>st</sup> and get a letter out etc. Selectmen Herman says to tentatively post for Wednesday 7:00 a.m. on March 31<sup>st</sup>. On that note if we are going to withdraw we have to have the language prepared for Wednesday morning.

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**PEG Access Channel Committee/Charge to the Committee (List of Volunteers):** Selectmen Herman talked to the PEG Londonderry Access Group Committee. She hasn't had a chance to get all the information needed and the committee needs to be contacted about the charge. Discussion ensued about the charge, including the need for the PEG Committee to: Look at the dollars they have to work with which they got from Adelphia; Collect other information on other active PEG Access users; and Establish goals of what is feasible for Milford and what we need for equipment. We need to know the constraints on how to accomplish that. What are the fundraising activities that other communities are involved in? Where is their support? Are there advertising dollars? Tim Finan has been in touch with Bedford and Merrimack. We need the committee to find out what the options are. What we can accomplish with our portion of the franchise fees. Selectman Daniels made a motion to charge the committee with the tasks attached hereto and made a permanent part of these records. Selectmen O'Connell seconded and all are in favor.

**Discussion of the possibility of the Board of Selectmen meeting weekly:** No action was taken.

**Adoption of Proposed 2004 – 2005 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule (2004 – 2005 Calendar):** There was concern about making decisions regarding the calendar without Selectmen Pickett, so Board decided to have a preliminary discussion and then vote when all members of the Board were present. Selectmen O'Connell questioned the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting since it's on a Wednesday. Katie Chambers said that the Board has gone every three weeks during the summer and July 5<sup>th</sup> was a holiday. The Board has normally met on Wednesday if Monday was a holiday. The Board decided to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday's as usual through the summer instead of every three weeks. Selectmen Daniels motioned to table the issue until the next meeting and let Selectmen Pickett have a voice in it. Selectmen Mannino seconded and all were in favor.

**Status on Osgood Pond:** Selectmen O'Connell received a call on Friday from Matt Leahy. Congressman Bass' office is in conversation with Army Corp of Engineers. It doesn't appear to be going anywhere but he will keep pushing.

**Status Update of Milford – Nashua Bus Service:** Katie Chambers says the Nashua Bus Service has enough money to continue operating until May 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be a public hearing on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Milford Selectmen's Meeting Room for the public to attend and express their views. The grant requires that a public hearing be held if the service is terminated sooner than specified in the grant. A notice of the public hearing will be placed in the Nashua Telegraph, Union Leader and the Cabinet. Notices of the public hearing will also be handed out on the bus.

**Lease Agreement with US Cellular (Awaiting Revisions)** – Katie Chambers has yet to meet with Town Counsel Bill Drescher. The soonest he could see her would be this Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### 6. NEW BUSINESS.

**Appointment of Board of Selectmen Representatives to 2004 Boards, Commissions, Committees, etc. (Listing)**  
Because Selectman Pickett was not present, Selectmen Daniels motioned to table the issue. Selectmen O'Connell

seconded and all in favor. Selectmen Herman said that the agenda she forwarded to everyone from the Chairman of Water District Charter Committee regarding the Thursday night April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at 6:30 in Nashua had the wrong location on it. Selectmen O'Connell asked if people interested in the Water Village District should be invited. Selectmen Herman stated Mervin Newton and Dave Quigley are interested in serving on the Water Village District.

**Reappointment of Committee and Commission Members (Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Heritage Commission, and Recreation Commission)** Katie Chambers announced that Jan Burkhardt has applied for a job as Assistant Pool Director. The Recreation Director and Katie have an issue having someone on the Recreation Commission that is also working in the Recreation Department. They feel if Ms. Burkhardt wants to be employed in the Recreation Department she shouldn't be appointed to the Commission. The Recreation Commission feels its okay and there is no conflict. Ms. Burkhardt wants to be on the Recreation Commission and it's up to the Board of Selectmen to make that decision. Selectmen O'Connell feels Jan Burkhardt is wonderful and would hate to lose her unless she is willing to perhaps not vote on pool issues for those ten weeks. Katie Chambers feels that pool issues are on-going, even in the winter. Selectmen Herman asked if the job would be permanent. Katie Chambers said not necessarily. If her circumstances remain similar from year to year it's anticipated she would be interested in doing this from year to year. Selectmen Herman asked if we have any other precedent set from other committees? Katie Chambers said they have had situations with other boards and commissions where they have had conflicts in the past and they have just stood that way. She personally doesn't think it's appropriate. Selectmen Daniels said he would have concerns and would not want employees on commissions. Selectmen Herman says that Bill Parker was employee while he was on the Recreation Commission for some time. Katie Chambers says she has a problem with that too, and doesn't feel it's appropriate for a peer to be on a commission when they have some amount of oversight or influence. Selectmen Daniels questioned whether or not the Board was going to do further work determining what the ideal makeup of the Recreation Commission might be? If so, he wondered if the appointments of these people might be premature until the Board had this discussion. Selectmen Herman said she was going to address that issue next, but would like to get this issue addressed and move forward. Selectmen O'Connell agrees philosophically, she just feels Ms. Burkhardt is an excellent board member and is disappointed that she has taken the job. She thinks Ms. Burkhardt is one of the better board members. Katie Chambers added that Ms. Burkhardt said that if it came down to the decision she wanted the job over the commission. Rodney Richey from the audience said that the Library Trustees standard says Trustees cannot be employees. Selectmen Daniels would like to put this on a future agenda to make it policy that employees cannot be on commissions. Selectmen O'Connell would like to include the makeup of the Commission in that discussion. Selectmen Daniels motioned to table the appointments to the Recreation Commission. Selectmen Mannino seconded and all were in favor. Selectmen Daniels motioned to reappoint Tom Sloan and Steve Sareault as members of the Planning Board. Selectmen O'Connell seconded and all were in favor. Selectmen took up the appointments of Diane Fitzpatrick, Hub Seward, Audrey Frasier, Chris Guida, Sharon Hammond and Wayne Harden to the Conservation Commission. Selectmen Daniels motioned to approve the appointments. Selectmen O'Connell seconded and all were in favor. Next the Selectmen considered the appointment of Polly Cote to the Heritage Commission. Selectmen Daniels motioned to approve the appointment. Selectmen O'Connell seconded and all were in favor.

**Request for Waiver of Police Detail Fees (Milford Christian Academy Space Rental Application):** Katie Chambers stated their application indicates they expect three hundred people. They are requesting a waiver of the Police Detail Fees, not the police coverage. Selectman Daniels motioned to deny the request. Selectmen O'Connell seconded and all were in favor.

**Request for Tax Abatement:** Selectmen Herman discussed abatement #34 (Hammond Road) and #380 (Mason Road). Selectmen Daniels moved to accept tax abatement 34 and 380. Selectmen Mannino seconded and all were in favor.

**Request for Elderly Exemption Abatements:** Selectmen Mannino questioned the abatement for a resident with an address of Unit 9. Would that indicate it's an apartment instead of a property? Katie Chambers thinks it would be a condo or a mobile home. You have to be the owner to qualify for an exemption. Selectmen Daniels asked if the elderly exemptions were the same as veterans where they don't have to indicate any land or building value? Katie Chambers said it's a dollar amount off the valuation. They don't revise the assessment. They get a reduction in the assessment when the tax is calculated but the assessment itself doesn't reduce it's a credit. Selectmen Daniels asked if we can make an assumption that these are coming forward because they have met the criteria? Katie Chambers says yes. Selectmen Daniels motioned to approve the abatements for record number 37 and 26. Selectmen Mannino seconded and all were in favor. Selectmen Daniels moved to approve the abatements for records 45, 41, 22, 36, and 42. Selectmen O'Connell seconded and all were in favor.

**Consideration of Separate Water/Sewer District Study Committee:** Selectmen Herman received a request from Mervin Newton to be appointed to the Water Study Committee. Katie Chambers recalled that he was already appointed. Selectmen Herman said he also asked to be appointed to the Ambulance Study Committee. Katie Chambers said she has another person who wants to be appointed to the Ambulance Study Committee. Not sure if they will get to it tonight. Selectmen Herman said that the charge for the Water / Sewer Study Committee is pretty much the wording of the warrant article. Katie Chambers reminded the Board that they had already charged the government study committee to do this. The question is whether the Board wants to set up a separate committee as the warrant article recommended. Selectmen Herman said that we need to establish the committee, but also need to decide whether or not to have the form of government study committee continue to have a subcommittee working on it. They may not like the timeline that the outside committee works on but it seems redundant to have two committees studying the same thing. Suggest that we submit to the government study committee they need not form a subcommittee for the water and sewer, as the warrant article sought a separate committee strictly to study that. Katie Chambers asked if Selectmen Herman is going to suggest that they remove Mervin Newton and Dave Quigley from the government study committee, as the water district issue is why they wanted to be appointed. Selectmen Herman says she would leave it up to them to decide if they want to opt out or not. Don't think there is anything stopping them from being involved in both committees. Selectmen Herman felt it was important because of the language in the warrant article to form a separate and distinct Water/Sewer District Village Study Committee. Selectmen Daniels said he recalled that the language in the warrant article authorized the Selectmen to establish this subcommittee; it did not say the Selectmen must or shall establish. We told Mr. Quigley that the wording of his warrant article did not force us to take action. It authorized us to take action if we so chose. Katie Chambers said even if the article says must or shall the Board does not have to follow it it's up to the board to decide. Selectmen Herman asked if we had advertised that we are looking for people. Katie Chambers said that we have not but the staff is interested in participating. She thinks there will be staff participating because she don't see how somebody can really study that without getting all the particulars of the operations and the finances. Selectmen Daniels motioned to establish a separate Water / Sewer District Study Committee. Selectmen O'Connell seconded an all were in favor. Selectmen Herman said we should now advertise for members. Selectmen Herman asks if the Facilities Committee includes employees or not? Someone asked her if the Water/Sewer committee was going to be formed the same way as the Facilities Committee because they felt it was productive and wonderful and it didn't involve town employees. Selectmen Daniels likes the separation of not having town employees on committees. Selectmen O'Connell agrees. The only difference is that we already have a water department and someone from that department should be a liaison to the committee for reference. Selectmen Mannino thinks this is a little bit different, focus will be different. He sees a need for consultant or resource someone who knows the facts. Selectmen Daniels asked if the person could be an advisor instead of a member on the committee. He worries about the perception of the committee's integrity if town employees are on committee. Feels town would think they would be bias. Selectmen Mannino feels that, given state of water issues, that it would be wise to have some experts. Selectmen Herman feels the intent was to have a committee of volunteers that is not employee driven, but that can be accomplished by them still having access to the employees or staff. They can become knowledgeable from the presentation made to them by the various pertinent town departments because Milford has been a Super Fund site, Selectmen O'Connell would like to add to the charge that the committee look into federal and state regulations as they relate to the possibility of purchasing the Savage Well. Selectmen Herman said that those issues could be presented to the committee somehow. Katie Chambers agreed that the committee ought to look at it but with caution and interaction with the board, because of the fragile relationship that exists between the Board and the current owner.

Rodny Richey from audience said that the mission of the department makes all the difference in the world. Help the committee establish a schedule of what is going on and when things can be done. Katie Chambers said she will inform the Government Study Committee that the Board was going to form a separate committee and advertise for members. Selectmen Herman put the completion of the charge on the next agenda Selectmen Daniels motioned to make the Water/Sewer District Study Committee a stand-alone committee, separate from the Government Study Committee. Selectmen Mannino seconded and all were in favor.

## 7. ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

### 2004- 2005 Board of Selectmen's Goals (Draft Goals)

Selectmen Herman presented draft goals for the Boards review and provide feedback. Selectmen Daniels would like to see the Recreation Commission issue squared away and resolved this year. That may include putting an article on a warrant to restructure that committee to be advisory. The final thing that they would like to see is the changing of the fiscal year. Selectmen Herman will send out an e-mail to Selectmen Pickett soliciting his questions or suggestions.



Selectmen O'Connell would like to work on the calendar. She would like a town viewing meeting calendar. Selectmen Daniels said that any of the subcommittees that have been set up by the Board should be scheduled on a calendar. Selectmen O'Connell said when in doubt post it. Selectmen Herman said we need to have very specific actions on how to sell a million dollar warrant article on the conservation land purchase. We need to get the support of the committees doing the work and get the communication out. Diane Fitzpatrick would like to know what the Board's thoughts are. She needs to know where this board is, even if they (Conservation Commission) have to compromise their direction. Previous boards wouldn't even support \$25,000. Katie Chambers suggested using a new short-term website volunteer to incorporate a weekly article submitted by the board or about the board, start out interviewing the board members. Also, have a Board of Selectmen mailbox where people could e-mail you, similar to getting a letter here or a telephone call. The third idea was to collect e-mail addresses of those who contact us through the website and then we in turn could use those as a communication device if we save those addresses. We could communicate out to that group of people. Selectmen Herman will add all these to the goals list and e-mail to the board so members can all see them and see what Selectmen Pickett would like to add. Selectmen Herman will put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Selectmen Herman asked if there was any legislation that we know of that prohibits changing the rest rooms from "boys and girls" to "restrooms". There is none that the board is aware of.

**Consideration of an Alternate Fiscal Year (Katie Chambers Correspondence)** Selectmen Herman has copied everyone on e-mail about the fiscal year. Selectmen Herman and Katie Chambers have been working to put together an easily understood package before putting it out on the Internet. Perhaps the Board can independently start off. Katie Chambers is not convinced that the Board would really want to do this, but it should weigh the cost and benefits. Rodney Richey from the audience suggested assembling a small group, including Katie, Selectmen Herman, School Board Chairman Peter Bragdon, Mike Rosky, himself and Chuck Sweeney and Finance Director Rose Evans. Chuck hasn't joined yet, but he might be interested. This group could figure out how it could be done, present it to the Board, and then go public with it. Selectmen O'Connell says what scared her last year was the initial 18-month leap which would be cost prohibitive for many property owners. Rodney Richey believes there is an option of bonding the additional six months. They can look for ways to spread the payment out so it's not such a big hit. We need to see exactly what it would cost. Selectmen Herman asked if that was a salable warrant article. People like things they can touch. Katie Chambers says she doesn't know what's salable about it. Selectmen Herman wants to make sure we have this conversation more deeply so that we can figure out if we can make this viable or not. She sees lots of benefits to it but questions if the benefits weigh enough to offset that enormous hit. The Board obviously opted to take it off the warrant this past vote, but wanted to let those interested know that what the Board was contemplating doing. Selectman Daniels will take Selectman Herman's place on this subcommittee. Rodney will work out a meeting schedule for the subcommittee with Katie.

**Two Bills – House Bill 85 and Senate Bill 407:**

Katie Chambers said that these bills are being introduced in the House and Senate and that both bills are worded as having a budget committee in charge of developing the default budget. Katie Chambers suggested that the Board submit a letter for the hearing on Wednesday March 31, 2004. Katie would draft the letter to tell the Finance Committee that Milford does not have an elected budget committee and that they oppose having the default budget developed by an appointed budget committee. The Board authorized Katie to write a letter. The Board also asked Katie Chambers to add the Ambulance Study Committee on the next Board of Selectmen Meeting agenda.

**Non-Public Session – Negotiations.** Selectman Daniels motioned to enter into non-public session for the purpose of discussing negotiations at 8:30 p.m. Selectman Mannino seconded. All members were polled individually and assented to go into non-public session. After discussion, Selectman Daniels motioned to come out of non-public session at 9:10 p.m. Selectman Mannino seconded. All were in favor. No announcements were made.

**Non-Public Session – Personnel Issues.** Selectman Daniels motioned to enter into non-public session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues at 9:10 p.m. Selectman Mannino seconded. All members were polled individually and assented to go into non-public session. After discussion, Selectman O'Connell motioned to come out of non-public session at 10:30 p.m. Selectman Mannino seconded. All were in favor. No announcements were made.

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS.**

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS.**



**MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING 03/29/2004**

**-Next BOS Meeting.** The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be April 12th.

There being no further business to come before this Meeting, the Board adjourned at 10:30p.m.

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Chairman

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Vice-Chairman

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